

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

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NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-20 SPC-03 FEA-02

CEA-02 EA-11 FRB-02 NEA-10 OPIC-12 TRSE-00 CIEP-02

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R 131109Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2071

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 OECD PARIS 6296

PASS EPA, CEQ, COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OECD

SUBJECT: OECD ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE: REPORT ON 10TH SESSION, MARCH
4-6, 1974.

REF: ENV/A(74)1 1ST REVISION

1. SUMMARY. COMMITTEE DISCUSSED INTENDED 1975 REEXAMINATION
OF COMMITTEE'S MANDATE AND PROGRAM, BOTH LARGELY DEPENDENT ON OUTCOME
OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERIAL, NOV 13-14, 1974. POSSIBLE FUTURE
PRIORITIES: (A) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ENERGY, (B) ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION OF SHARED RESOURCES, (C) WASTE MANAGEMENT.

CURRENT PROJECTS WILL BE BROUGHT TO REPORTING STATE BY MID-1975.
COMMITTEE HEARD REPORT ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO LONG-TERM ENERGY
ASSESSMENT, AND SET UP MECHANISM TO REVIEW RECOMMENDATION ON SULFUR
OXIDES. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: CHAIRMAN, VAN SCHAIK (NETHERLANDS),
VICE-CHAIRMEN, HIGGS (AUSTRALIA), LYKKE(NOWRAY), MENKE-GLUEKERT
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(GERMANY), MUNRO (CANADA). US REPRESENTED BY HERTER, SCI. ADVI-

SERS: BRODIE, SCI, HAYNE, CEQ. ACTION REQUESTED: SEE PARA 5 BELOW.
END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT (A) PROPOSALS OF EXTENDED BUREAU
MEETING, JAN 21-22, 1974, REGARDING
AGENDA AND DATE (NOV 13-14, 1974), INCORPORATED IN VUKURLET SENT TO C
OUNCIL FOR APPROVAL ON 2B MARCH,
(B) PAPERS WILL BE PREPARED FOR DISCUSSION WITH NATIONAL DELS ON
ISSUES, ACTION PROPOSALS, AND DECLARATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY,
WITH END MARCH DEADLINE FOR ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS BY MEMBER
COUNTRIES, (C) SUBSIDIARY
GROUPS WILL PREPARE DRAFT ACTION PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDED BUREAU MEETIN
G
MAY 9-10, AND (D) PARTICULAR ATTENTION WILL BE GIVEN TO DECLARATION
ON ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY, TO BE PREPARED IN TWO PARTS: (I) BRIEF
DECLARATION OF POLICY, (II) SHOPPING LIST OF TOPICS FOR POSSIBLE
INCLUSION. SECRETARIAT WILL MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT WITH PERMDELS ON
DRAFTING OF DECLARATION.

3. REVIEW OF CURRENT WORK AND PLANS FOR FUTURE (ENV(74)71.
COMMITTEE APPROVED ANNUAL REPORTS ON SECTOR GROUP WORK. US PROPOSED
ABOLISHMENT SUBCOMMITTEE OF ECONOMIC EXPERTS (SCEE) AND INTRODUCTION
OF ECONOMISTS WITH APPROPRIATE PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE INTO
SECTOR GROUPS. THIS WOULD ENABLE PROJECTS TO HAVE ADEQUATE ECONOMIC
COMPONENT AT OUTSET, RATHER THAN POST FACTO ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION
AS NOW THE CASE. US SUGGESTED THAT SCEE BUREAU BE RETAINED TO WORK
WITH CENTRAL ANALYSIS UNIT IN SELECTION OF CONSULTANT ECONMISTS
AND TO ADVISE ON GENERAL ECONOMIC
ASPECTS OF ENVCOM STUDIES. COMMITTEE FOUND US PROPOSAL TOO
DRASTIC PRIOR TO 1975 RECONSIDERATION OF ENVCOM
MANDATE IN LIGHT OF NOVEMBER 1974 MINISTERIAL ACTION
RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, MANY DELS ECHOED US
CRITICISM THAT SCEE APPROACH TOO THEORETICAL. GENERAL
AGREEMENT THAT PLANS FOR FUTURE OF ENVCOM PROGRAM WOULD
ENTAIL CLOSE EXAMINATION OF SCEE AND SECTOR GROUP
PERFORMANCE, WITH STRONG EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL APPROACH
LEADING TO ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS OF DISCERNIBLE VALUE
TO MEMBER-COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS. WITH THIS IN MIND,
CURRENT PROJECTS WILL BE BROUGHT TO REPORTING STAGE BY
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MID-1975. SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE A PAPER FOR NEXT
SESSION ON 1974-75 WORK OF SCEE, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT US
AND OTHER COUNTRY COMMENTS. PRIORITY AREAS FOR ENVCOM'S
FUTURE PROGRAM: (A) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF
ENERGY PRODUCTION AND USE, (B) ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OF
SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES, (C) WASTE DISPOSAL, RECYCLING
POLICY AND RELATED RAW MATERIAL EXPLOITATION.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ENERGY PRODUCTION AND USE.
EXPERT GROUP PAPER NR/ENV(74)1) RECEIVED TOO LATE FOR
DISCUSSION. COMMITTEE ALSO FELT DISCUSSION SECRETARIAT
GUIDELINE PAPER, ENV(74)10 INAPPROPRIATE PRIOR DETAILED.../...
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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 OECD PARIS 6296

PASS EPA, CEQ, COMMERCE

REVIEW NR/ENV(74)11. MEMBER-COUNTRY WRITTEN COMMENTS ON
LATTER REQUIRED BY MARCH 25. US COMMENTS ALREADY SUBMITTED.
SCHNEIDER, COORDINATOR FOR OECD LONG-TERM ENERGY ASSESSMENT,
STATED NR/ENV(74)11 EXTREMELY USEFUL INTERIK CONTRIBUTION,
BUT URGED ATTEMPT TO QUANTIFY ENERGY IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENT,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL AND DAMAGE COSTS. ADDITIONALLY, HE
REQUESTED FURTHER INFORMATION ON (A) CLIMATIC IMPACTS OF
ELECTRICITY GENERATION, (B) ENERGY RECYCLING (EFFECTS ON
ENVIRONMENT AND COSTS), (C) DESULFURIZATION OF COAL AND OIL,
WITH COST ESTIMATES, (D) OFF-SHORE OIL AND GAS SPILLS, (E)
STANDARDS FOR SITING OF OIL REFINERIES AND LARGESCALE ENERGY
TRANSFORMING PLANTS. SECRETARIAT WILL REQUEST MEMBER COUNTRIES
TO PROVIDE THIS INFORMATION, IF POSSIBLE. FIRST DISCUSSION OF

REPLIES SCHEDULED FOR MAY 9-10. EXTENDED BUREAU MEETING. NEXT MEETING OF EXPERT GROUP ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF ENERGY FOR DECISION BY MAY 9-10 EXTENDED BUREAU.

5. DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF SULFUR
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OXIDES, C(74)16. TASK FORCE DISCUSSED AMENDMENTS TO C(74)16, RETURNED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR RECONSIDERATION. LENGTHY UK PROPOSALS (HANDCARRIED TO DEPARTMENT) PLUS OTHER MEMBER-COUNTRY COMMENTS WILL FOR BASIS OF SPECIAL ENVCOM MEETING, MARCH 22. AS REQUESTED BY US DEL, MISSION WILL COVER MEETING, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THOMPSON, EPA, ATTENDING AMSG MARCH 19-21, STAY OVER AS TECHNICAL ADVISER. DETAILED GUIDANCE ALSO REQUESTED, PARTICULARLY RE US POSITION ON ACCEPTABLE LIMITS TO WATERING-DOWN OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. WASTE MANAGEMENT, ENV(74)9, ENV(74)14. COMMITTEE APPROVED CREATION OF WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY GROUP. DETAILS OF COORDINATION WITH OECD AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEES TO BE WORKED OUT. US STRESSED IMPORTANCE THIS PROJECT, AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED ECO OMISTS WORKS CLOSELY WITH GROUP, SINCE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE NATURE OF SUBJECT BE ECONOMICS-ORIENTED.

7. COMPARATIVE REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT OPTIONS, ENV(74)111. COMMITTEE ENDORSED US VIEW THAT TOPICS BE LIMITED IN NUMBER, BUT WITH ADEQUATE MEMBER-COUNTRY SUBMISSION. US OFFERED PAPERS TENTATIVELY ON OPTION 2 (BEST AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY) AND OPTION 5 (HANDLING OF PRODUCTS CONTAINING CHEMICALS).

8. NOTIFICATION AND CONSULTATION PROCEDURE. ENV(74)8. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO PENDING 1975 REEXAMINATION OF ITS MANDATE.

9. DERESTRICTION OF REPORT ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, ENV(73)33, 1ST REVISION. COUNTRY COMMENTS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN SECOND REVISION, FOR DISCUSSION AT NEXT ENVCOM MEETING. US CHANGES PER POSITION PAPER SUBMITTED TO SECRETARIAT.

10. WORKING MEHTODS OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE, ENV(74)12. SECRETARIAT WILL AMPLIFY PAPER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT US AND OTHER COMMENTS ON NEED FOR (A) MORE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF PROJECTS BEFORE TRANSMITTAL TO SUBSIDIARY GROUPS, (B) MORE EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH THOSE GROUPS AT
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ALL STAGES OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT.

11. UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM (UNEP),
ENV(74)13. SECRETARIAT REPORTED THAT COUNCIL WILL
SHORTLY REGULARIZE PROCEDURE FOR OECD-UNEP EXCHANGE OF
DOCUMENTS AND OBSERVERS.

12. MEETINGS DATES: MAR 22- SPECIAL MEETING OF ENVCOM
OF SULFUR-OXIDES; MAY 9-10 EXTENDED BUREAU; JUNE 24-26
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.
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